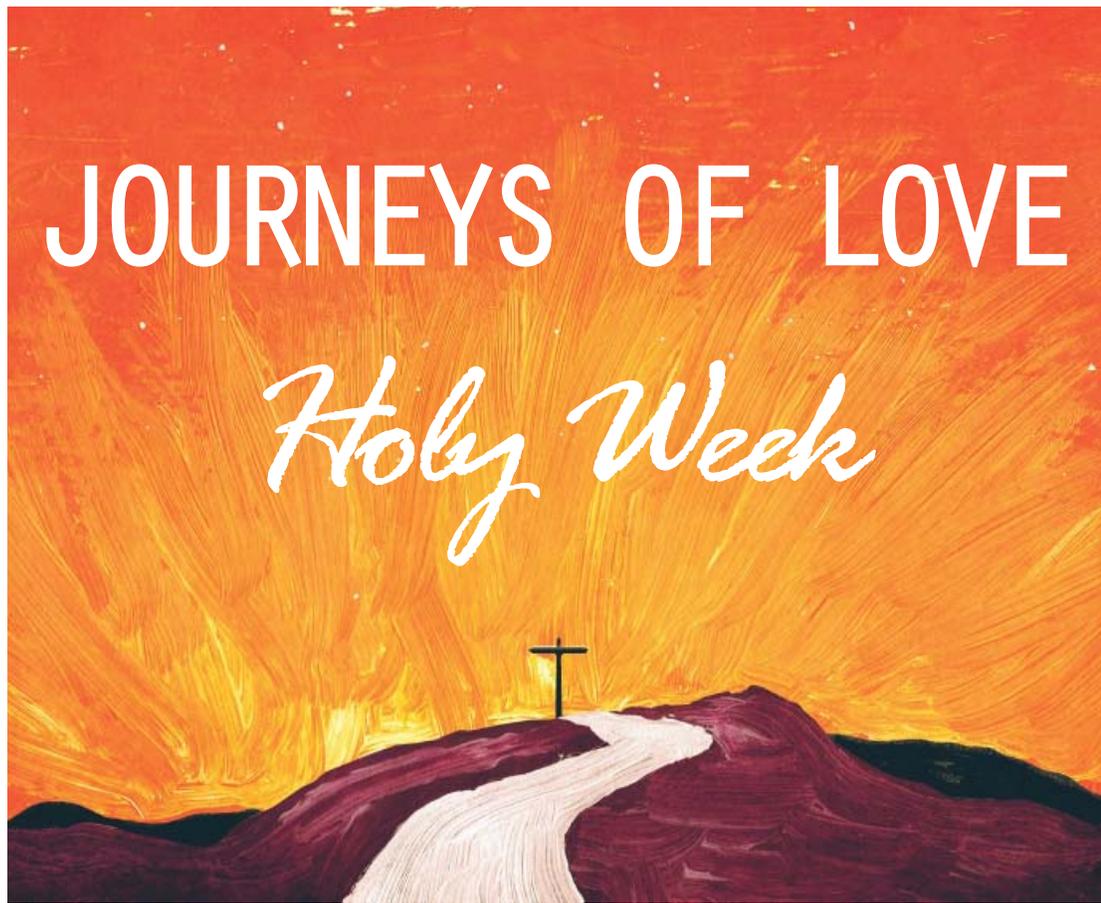




CROSS CONNECTIONS

March
2018



March 11 | International Guitar Night
7:00 p.m. (tickets \$20 in adv/\$30 at door)

March 14 | Wednesday Nights at First
5:45 p.m. Meal served (fellowship hall)
6:30 p.m. Program: Lenten Hymn Sing (fellowship hall)

March 25 | Palm Sunday
10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt (labyrinth)

March 28 | The Upper Room
5:45 p.m. Meal and Program (fellowship hall)

March 29 | Maundy Thursday
7p.m. Worship (sanctuary)

March 30 | Good Friday
12 noon Worship (sanctuary)

April 1 | Easter
8:15 a.m. Worship (sanctuary)
9:30 a.m. New Song Worship (fellowship hall)
11:00 a.m. Worship (sanctuary)

• **Lenten Organ Recital**

First Presbyterian organist, Mary Mozelle, will perform a Lenten Organ Recital on **Wednesday March 7**, at 12:10 p.m at Church of the Redeemer, (222 S. Palm Ave.). The recital will include works by Bach, Brahms, Sowerby and Vierne and will last only 35 minutes. This event is open to the public and there is no charge to attend. All are welcome!

• **International Guitar Night**
Co-Sponsored by FPC

On **Sunday, March 11**, at 7:00 p.m. FPC and Fogartyville Community Center present jazz legend Lulo Reinhardt with renowned harp guitarist Stephen Bennett; Marek Pasieczny, Poland’s innovative classical composer/performer; and award-winning American guitarist Michael Chapdelaine.

A limited number of discount tickets are available for \$20 in the church office for FPC members and friends. Tickets are available at Fogartyville.org for \$30 and at the door for \$35.

• **Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas**

April 1 is Easter Sunday. If you would like to purchase lilies or hydrangeas for Easter worship services, please fill out this form and return it with your check (marked with ‘Easter flowers’ in the memo) to the church office. Order deadline is Monday, March 26. No orders can be accepted after this date.

PRINT VERY CLEARLY.

Name of donor: _____

Number of lilies @ \$10.00 ea. _____ Amount Paid: _____ Check # _____

Number of hydrangeas (limited quantity) @ 15.00 ea. _____ Amount Paid: _____ Check # _____

In memory of : _____

In honor of: _____

I will pick up my flowers.

I wish to donate my flowers to homebound.

I would like to volunteer to help deliver flowers to homebound.

• **Wednesday Nights at First**

Claim one night for dinner with your church family. Gather anytime after 5:00 p.m. for games, homework help, or conversation. Dinner will be served buffet-style at 5:45 p.m. Fun activities for all will round out our meal together. Small groups for children, youth, and adults run from 6:30-7:15 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults and \$3 for children.

March 14 - Lenten Hymn Sing

March 28 - Upper Room

April 11

April 25

• **Good Friday Pilgrimage**

Everyone is invited to join our sisters and brothers from a wide variety of Christian congregations for our Good Friday Pilgrimage. We will gather at 7:15 a.m. in front of the Hollywood 11 Theater at the corner of Main Street and Washington Boulevard on **Good Friday, March 30**. We will walk together, 500 strong, through downtown Sarasota, remembering the final journey of Jesus to the cross. The pilgrimage will end at Church of the Redeemer, 222 South Palm Avenue, around 8:30 a.m.



- ***What's Next for the Imagine the Future Capital Campaign?***



The *Imagine the Future* capital campaign has accomplished many things over the past two years: a beautifully renovated sanctuary; a completely restored and expanded organ; retirement of debt; new doors, sound system and lighting in the fellowship hall; much needed improvements to the administration and education building; and a significant impact with new and ongoing mission partners.

So, What's Next?

As the dust settles and pledges continue to come in, we are now able to turn our attention to completing the stage/storage area in the fellowship hall and identifying a new children's ministry within the Sarasota area.

We have begun the processes of planning and designing a permanent stage in the fellowship hall that will meet both current and future needs for our congregation and the community. After the planning and design process, we will seek bids for the build-out of the stage and storage area. We anticipate the work to begin sometime later this year or in the beginning of 2019.

In the early stages of the capital campaign, we identified eleven mission opportunities that would meet local, regional and global needs. There was also the hope to find an additional local mission partner with whom to work and make a significant impact for children in the Sarasota are. We are now actively in conversation and exploring the needs with a possible mission partner - more information to come! We anticipate completing our financial commitments to our capital campaign mission partners by the end of this year.





• **Colorectal Cancer Screening Saves Lives**

submitted by Cheryl Track, RN-BC, Faith Community Nurse

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cancer killer in the U.S., but it doesn't have to be. If everyone aged 50 years or older had regular screening tests, at least 60% of deaths from this cancer could be avoided.



"Why should I get screened?"

"I don't have symptoms." **FACT:** Colorectal cancer doesn't always cause symptoms, especially early on.

"It doesn't run in my family." **FACT:** Most colorectal cancers occur in people with no family history and affects men and women equally.

"But that test..." **FACT:** There are several kinds of screening tests.

"I'm only 53, I'm too young." **FACT:** Screening is recommended for men and women beginning at age 50 through age 75, and at age 45 if you are African American. The risk increases with age. The decision to be screened after age 75 should be made on an individual basis after talking with your doctor.

When your risk for colorectal cancer may be higher than average:

- You or a close relative have had colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer.
- You have inflammatory bowel disease.
- You have a genetic syndrome.

People at high risk for colorectal cancer may need earlier or more frequent tests than other people. Talk to your doctor about when to begin screening and how often you should be tested.

Screening saves lives; here's how:

- Colorectal cancer usually starts from polyps in the colon or rectum. A polyp is a growth that shouldn't be there.
- Over time, some polyps can turn into cancer.
- Screening tests can find polyps, so they can be removed before they turn into cancer.
- Screening tests also can find colorectal cancer early. When it is found early, the chance of being cured is good.

The bottom line: If you are 50 or older, talk with your doctor about getting screened.

Taken from www.cdc.gov/screenforlife



• **Stephen Ministry**

The Stephen Ministry logo symbolizes that we all are broken people, and that it is through Jesus that we are made whole. Stephen Ministers are *care* givers while God is the *cure* giver.

Stephen Ministry is Your Ministry.

You play an important role.

Here's what you can do:

Pray for God to bring hope and healing to hurting people through our Stephen Ministry.

Accept care from a Stephen Minister during your time of need. God doesn't expect you to bear your burdens alone.

Tell a friend, neighbor, coworker, or relative who is hurting about our Stephen Ministry.

If you would like a Stephen Minister to call on you, a loved one, or a friend, please contact Pastors Glen Bell or Kelly Fitzgerald.

If you would like to learn more about the Stephen Ministry program at First Presbyterian Church, go to firstpressarasota.org and find our "Stephen Ministry" category in the linear menu. Click on it to learn about this important confidential, one-on-one ministry that is available to you.

• **Invest In Children Celebration**



As we celebrate the first anniversary of the mission initiative, Invest in Children, it is with grateful hearts and blessings to the members of First Presbyterian Church. One year ago this month, we embarked on this new mission, involving the children of Brentwood Elementary School (BES).

Led by an administrator with the Sarasota School Board who pointed to the crucial need at this local Title 1 School where over 60% of the students receive free lunch due to financial needs, the first steering committee members established an ongoing relationship with BES, and twelve volunteers took their place in the BES classrooms. Now the number of volunteers has grown to thirty, and efforts are underway to increase that number.

Two of the teachers at Brentwood recently shared their thoughts about the impact First Presbyterian Church volunteers have made on their classrooms. *Sarah Leonard* is a first grade teacher who has been on the staff of Brentwood Elementary School for 24 years, and *Andrea Jackson* teaches a kindergarten class.

Mrs Jackson says, “The volunteer program is amazing!” She has found the volunteers who come into her classroom are always eager and want to help out in any way they can. They assist the students to acquire several skills, such as learning the letters of the alphabet, sight word recognition, and writing complete sentences.

The most promising way volunteers have helped in the classroom, however, is by promoting the love of reading. Mrs. Jackson continues, “They go the extra mile, talking with the children, learning about who they are, and what’s going on in their lives. Sometimes a child just wants to be close to the volunteer or just wants a hand to hold. There is nothing more special than seeing the excitement the kindergarteners have when volunteers are in the classroom.”

Mrs. Leonard describes the reaction of her students to the volunteers from First Presbyterian as one of great enthusiasm and LOVE! And she comments that the best part of the interaction with her students is that the volunteers show the first graders that they really care about their learning.

The Invest in Children committee (composed of Jinny and Ron Miller, Kay Dunn, Bob Forbes, Sandi Soper, Mary Elle Hunter and Drew Stuart) encourages members of the congregation who haven’t made the commitment to volunteer at Brentwood to consider joining this ever-expanding adventurous group. Call Jinny and Ron Miller at (941)924-9494 or seek out an application form in the narthex or the fellowship hall.



Save your Box Tops for Education! Support our partnership with Brentwood Elementary School by placing them in the special containers at the church. Questions? Call Jinny and Ron Miller (941) 924-9494.

• **New Member Bios**

submitted by Mary Elle Hunter, membership committee



Jeff Bartell is a recent new member of the choir at First Presbyterian Church, and he also was in the group of new members who joined the church in January. Born and raised in New Jersey, he has been a resident of the Sarasota area for the past six years.

Brought up in a Presbyterian church and, with the exception of a couple of detours to other denominations, he has been a member of Presbyterian churches his whole life. Jeff has been a worship leader in two churches, and has sung in the choir ever since joining the children's choir at a young age.

Having been a member of another local Presbyterian church since moving to Sarasota, last summer he undertook a search of churches and found himself attracted to First Presbyterian by the preaching, the music program and the welcoming spirit.

His greatest enjoyment is singing, and Jeff is happy to be part of the choir at First Presbyterian. He is an avid reader and takes daily walks on the beach, and also gets pleasure from boarding dogs.

Jeff attended Montclair State University in New Jersey, majoring in theater arts, as well as the New York School of the Bible. During his career as a graphic artist and typographer, he specialized in publication design and layout.



Marilyn Claxton became a member of First Presbyterian with the first group joining the church in mid-January. Born in Iowa, she has been a Sarasota resident for almost a year, having relocated from Hilton Head Island, SC.

She graduated from Valparaiso University in Indiana, where she met her husband, Bruce. They were married in 1957 and were blessed with two children, Brett and Jennifer. Bruce died in 2015.

After college, Marilyn worked as a Military

Intelligence Research Specialist for the Army Map Service. However, the family moved to Maryland, then Georgia, and to Massachusetts over the years due to her husband's job with a textbook publishing company. Consequently, she had a varied career, teaching an eighth grade geography class, managing an office for an architectural firm, and working as an executive secretary for Digital Equipment Corp.

Marilyn and Bruce traveled extensively and played lots of golf, dined out and played poker with their friends. Her main hobby now is music and reading. In the past, she designed and created modern needlework projects.

They moved to Hilton Head after retirement and joined First Presbyterian Church there, which was a traditional, beautifully designed campus, with pastors offering thought-provoking sermons, wonderful music by the organist and choir, and a warm and welcoming congregation and staff. Marilyn has found all of these same attributes at First Presbyterian in Sarasota, and she believes this is the right church for her at this time in her life.



Marsha and Ken Fischl, seasonal residents of The Oaks in Osprey, joined First Presbyterian in January. They return to Chicago each summer, where they have lived for the last forty years, and still attend Fourth Presbyterian Church while there.

Their life in Florida coincided with Ken's retirement as vice-chairman of Marmon Holdings, Inc. a multinational manufacturing entity. Growing up in Pittsburgh, he earned degrees from Lehigh University and the University of Michigan, and devoted forty-six years to his career. He now enjoys time on the golf course, playing bridge, and other interests such as photography, architecture and travel.

A New York City native, Marsha also has two degrees - one from Eastern Michigan University and the other from DePaul University. She worked in medical research at major medical centers until she left her career to devote to her family.

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• **New Member Bios** (continued from page 6)

Marsha was a volunteer at their children's schools and also volunteered at church in the Women's Association and on other committees. For the past ten years, she has been a docent at the Art Institute of Chicago and the Field Museum. Her hobbies include tennis, golf and gardening.

The couple has two children and four grandchildren, living on opposite coasts. Ken, Jr. with his wife and a 5-year-old and 7-year-old live in Massachusetts, while Alex, his wife and two children (6 and 8) are Californians. There are family reunions on both coasts, as well as in Chicago and Florida.

Marsha and Ken were impressed with First Presbyterian because it was the only church they visited where the pastor and members of the congregation spoke to them and welcomed them. They also like the traditional 11:00 a.m. service and the wonderful music. Additionally, they look forward to the many opportunities to get involved with the work of the church and meeting other members.



Ed Johnston and his wife, **Jean**, who is a retired Presbyterian minister, were welcomed on the occasion of Ed's joining First Presbyterian Church in mid-January. They purchased a small home in Sarasota in

2017, but their permanent residence is west of Philadelphia for a larger part of the year, and most of both of their adult lives was spent in northern New Jersey.

Ed was trained as a Doctor of Optometry. However, for the majority of his career, he was engaged in various administrative positions at the State University of New York at a campus in New York City.

Growing up in the Presbyterian church in the Pittsburgh area, they have remained Presbyterians in various churches in New Jersey. The couple has two adult daughters and two young grandsons -- all of them live in the Garden State.

While in Sarasota, Ed Johnston has taken up golf, does some woodworking and loves

to garden. Jean's hobbies are knitting and needlepoint, and she has just returned to creating watercolor paintings.

They both plan on being active in First Presbyterian. Ed says they were drawn to the church by college classmates of Jean's, but also by the church's social action in the community, Glen Bell's preaching and the friendliness of the members.



A Venice resident, **Peg Moffett**, joined First Presbyterian Church as part of a substantial group of new members in January. Although a native Floridian who was born and raised in Miami, she moved to Venice fourteen years ago from a former residence in Ohio.

A lifelong Presbyterian, Peg was married to a Presbyterian pastor, serving churches in Minnesota, Kentucky and Ohio. She has two sons, three granddaughters and two grandsons.

Peg has had a long-term interest in science, with a degree in biology, and has taken multiple courses ranging from zoology to archeology. Volunteer work has also been very important to Peg during her life. She lists the theater, library cataloging, and participating in water aerobics instruction as a few of her varied avocations. She has taught knitting and, among her many hobbies such as needlework and other crafts, she has knitted items for seven cancer centers, Habitat for Humanity and Guatemalan children.

Peg says she was drawn to First Presbyterian by the pastors, the sermons, the music and the opportunities to use the gifts God has given her.



Nancy and Bill Rexrode were welcomed as affiliate members of First Presbyterian in January. They are Sarasota residents the first two months of the year, being very active members of their home

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• **New Member Bios** (continued from page 7)

church in York, Pennsylvania. In fact, Nancy is on the membership/fellowship committee back home, and Bill is on the mission committee.

Bill graduated from Penn Medical School, practiced pulmonary medicine at York Hospital. Since his retirement, he has volunteered as a medical missionary in Kenya and India. Now he likes spending time in his workshop, providing transportation for many people, and also acting as a mentor for several individuals.

Nancy, a registered dietitian, with a Master's Degree in nutrition education, taught nursing students at York College. She is a Master Gardener, a PEO member and served as a Stephen Minister for thirty years.

The couple had three daughters - the youngest died when she was 15. Their oldest daughter followed in her father's footsteps and is a physician in Boston with two sons. The other daughter is a New York architect with a son and daughter.

Both Nancy and Bill have been very impressed with the friendliness of the staff and members at First Presbyterian, particularly Glen Bell, whose excellent sermons are valued. They have appreciated his weekly Bible study as well as the inspiring adult education classes on Sunday mornings.



A new member from the group who joined First Presbyterian Church late last year has also joined the choir. **Gay Tennis** was born in Atlanta, but her family moved to Florida when she was six years old. She grew up and graduated from high school in Orlando, before all the development that engulfed the area. To this day she is a Disney fan, and has a lifetime pass which allows her to visit the Magic Kingdom.

Gay has three sons from an early marriage. Her boys and their families are the loves of her life.

She earned Bachelor's, Master's and PhD degrees from Georgia College and State University and for eight years served as research director of the United Presbyterian denomination in New York City. Then Gay taught at North

Georgia College and State University as a professor of business administration for sixteen years, garnering recognition as a distinguished professor and educator-of-the-year awards.

Gay was married to Gene Tennis for almost forty years until his death in 2014. After his retirement in 2000, the couple traveled to every country in the world except Egypt. They also had a timeshare residence in Hawaii, which they enjoyed with family and friends. They loved snorkeling and exploring the islands, even flying over a volcano just as it was preparing to erupt. Hobbies for Gay still include traveling and reading, especially mysteries. And above all, she loves singing in the choir at First Presbyterian.



Mary Willis, a recent new member of First Presbyterian Church, has already been an active participant in the ongoing life of the church in varied ways. She observed Good Friday last year by walking Stations of the Cross on Sarasota's

Main Street, shared an overnight in support of Family Promise and joyfully joined the choir for the celebration of A Celtic Christmas. She has become the newest member of the membership committee.

The move north from Naples to Sarasota in 1988 with her three young daughters, was for an entrepreneurial opportunity allowing her to use her accounting background while maintaining the flexible schedule of a working mother.

Trained as a CPA. Mary continues to work with a team of dedicated young people who find value in the skills she can pass on. She is also challenged daily to respond to the needs of a land developer and home builder.

Her daughters are now grown, successful women who make her proud on a daily basis. Additionally, the two youngest are now in the Sarasota area, bringing five wonderful grandchildren that her husband, Bob, and she are allowed to spoil regularly.

Time with a good book is a favored pastime for Mary. Other leisure pursuits are tennis and

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• ***New Member Bios*** (continued from page 8)

long-distance running. While marathons are a thing of the past, she still enjoys a long run on occasion.

Raised in a large Irish Catholic family, Mary found comfort in that choice for many years. Changes in her circumstances and the passage of time called her to question what had become routine about the services and the lack of fellowship. She felt the need for a spiritual connection based on the application of Christian principles in the local community.

The fellowship she has encountered at First Presbyterian and the opportunities for outreach are exactly what she was seeking. In the last year she has met wonderful spiritual leaders and gracious church members who have extended themselves in rewarding ways. She looks forward to 2018 with the First Presbyterian family, offering her thanks in the New Song service.

• ***Peace River Presbytery***

***Announcement of December 2017
Blessing Grant Awards***

On behalf of the blessing grant task force, the presbytery wants to convey its gratitude and enthusiasm for all the proposals received. The task in front of them was not easy, but it was a joy to consider proposals designed to stretch them and to creatively address new ways of reaching out into their respective communities.

The blessing grant task force was able to recommend three proposals to the steering committee for final approval and

FPC Sarasota received one of the grants submitted by Steven Phillips for OakStreet Stage music program!

The focus of the music program will be building and operating a music venue designed to connect the church more deeply with the city and re-fashion the image of FPC among its unchurched neighbors.

They will build and brand OakStreet Stage and have folk music, jazz, blues, and high-quality popular styles of music. They will also train their members to do relational outreach and encourage them to become agents of spiritual connection. The request was for \$7,000 and the task force awarded \$5,000 for this proposal.

• ***Treasure Sale***
Saturday, March 17

We are still collecting goodies for our **Treasure Sale** to help support our children and youth summer adventures! We are looking for good resale items (no clothes, please). You can bring your donations to church on Sundays and place them in the basket in the fellowship hall entrance or the sanctuary narthex. If you would like to arrange a pick-up, email Kelly Fitzgerald (kfitzgerald@firstpressarasota.org).

The sale begins at 8:00 a.m. and continues through 2:00 p.m.





• **Presbyterian Women**

The next PW Gathering and luncheon is **Tuesday, March 6** at 11:30 a.m. in the fellowship hall. Jane Barr, an elder of the church will be speaking. Did you know that Jane is also an author, and a leadership and communications coach? Jane will be sharing with us wisdom from her recent book *Wise Woman Leadership: Your Key to Leading with Ease, Grace and Integrity*. Please bring your favorite salad to share. Drinks, dessert and bread will be provided. You may also pay \$10 in cash or check at the door to purchase a salad. Make checks payable to Presbyterian Women FPC. You can make a reservation by calling Mary Webb at (941) 758-6035 or the church office at (941) 955-8119 by noon on Monday, March 5. Please mention whether you will bring a salad or pay at the door.

At PW Lite on February 6, Cindie Moore gave us an update on the Mam women of Guatemala, letting us know there is still a need for safe cooking stoves. The cost of a stove is \$160 with each woman paying \$40 and the remainder paid for by donations. If you want to contribute to this worthy project, please make your check out to Presbyterian Women FPC and designate it for Guatemalan cook stoves. Give your donation to Mary Webb or leave it in her mailbox at the church office by Monday, March 6. Any amount helps. The names of contributors will be placed in a drawing and one lucky person will receive a beautiful, handmade Mam apron.

The Peace River PW spring retreat is **Monday and Tuesday, March 12 and 13** at DaySpring Episcopal Conference Center, Ellenton, FL. The theme of the retreat is *God's Guiding Hands*. Each church is asked to provide a gift basket for the auction. The theme of our basket is "hands." Items for the basket or cash donations may be delivered to the church office no later than Friday, March 9. Some examples for the basket are new hand towels, hand lotion and nail polish.

• **New Book Club Opportunity**

Do you care about race relations in our community, but don't know what to do or who to reach out to? How about enrolling in a brand-new inter-racial book club!

This idea was germinated as Dr. Paul Roberts concluded his Faith Focus Weekend Saturday morning presentation with a reading list about race relations. Several in the audience responded to the idea. Now Janet Olshewsky and Dr. Vicki Wacksman are organizing an inter-racial book club, hoping many of you will participate. An organizational meeting will be held at FPC **Sunday, March 11**, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Please contact Janet at janetolshewsky@verizon.net or (941) 351-6912, or Vicki at wacksman@aol.com or (941) 355-5580.

Below is the list of books that Rev. Paul Roberts recommended:

Waking Up White
by Debby Irving

Just Mercy by
Bryan Stevenson

The Christian Imagination
by Willie James Jennings

Jesus and the Disinherited
by Howard Thurman

Sapiens
by Yuval Noah Harari

The Half Has Never Been Told
by Edward E. Baptist

Stamped from the Beginning
by Ibram X. Kendi

The Souls of Black Folk
by W.E.B. DuBois

• **An Update on Family Promise**

First Presbyterian has been caring for homeless children and their parents in Sarasota for more than ten years. We've been doing this as a host for Family Promise, a non-profit organization that depends on congregations like us to feed and house those families while professionals help them find permanent places to live.

You may have heard that Family Promise of Sarasota suspended operations last year when its director resigned for health reasons and two other congregations dropped out of the hosting rotation. The good news is that more than 80 people from fourteen congregations gathered last week to plan how to restart this ministry with new staff, new congregations, and new leadership. With help from the national Family Promise organization, we laid plans for reorganizing on a stronger basis and incorporating new congregations into this ministry. The turnout of volunteers for the meeting and the enthusiasm they expressed was amazing. Confidence ran high that we will be helping homeless families again before the end of this year.

Watch for more information about the new program as it comes together and for details about how you can help. Many hands will be needed - there are still too many homeless children in Sarasota County.

• **Caritas Fundraiser**

On **Saturday, April 7**, at 11:30 a.m. at St. Martha Catholic Church (200 N Orange Ave.) support Caritas by attending a benefit luncheon. The cost of a ticket is \$40. Look for lots of laughs with Lynn McDonald, humorist, author/speaker and comedian, along with her hilarious buddy, Harriet Torpie. Please RSVP by Monday, March 26, to Sabrina Gibson (941) 366-4210 x3221. Tickets are limited and are selling fast.

• **Foster Care and Adoption Awareness Meeting**

In the Sarasota-Bradenton area there are over 1,200 children in foster care. On **Tuesday, March 6**, at 7:00 p.m. at South Shore Community Church (1899 S. Tuttle) you can learn more about local foster care and how you can help.



• **Think On These Things**

Morning Prayer

*Early in the morning I seek your presence,
O God,
Not because you are ever absent from me
But because often I am absent from you
At the heart of each moment
Where you forever dwell.
In the rising of the sun,
In the unfolding colour and shape of the
morning
Open my eyes to the mystery of this moment
That is every moment of the day
I may know your life-giving presence.
Open my eyes to this moment
That in every moment
I may know you as the One who is always now.*

A Celtic Psalter
J. Philip Newell
(former warden of Iona Abbey, Scotland)



*Wait for God,
be strong and let your
heart take courage;
wait for God.*

- Psalm 27:14

• **A Special Thank You**



The First Presbyterian SURE Team says thank-you to the 93 members and friends of our church who attended the 2017 SURE Nehemiah Assembly: Marty Adams, Jessica and Charlie Armstrong, Bob and Jane Barr, Glen Bell, Bob and Diane Bittner, Michael Brown, Barbara Chase, George and Merle Chorba, Jordan Cook, Lynn Reichman, Landon, Logan, and Siena Cook; Floyd Churn, Kelly Fitzgerald, Bob and Ellen Forbes, Colleen Forristall, Florence Foster, Mary and Mike Groninger, David Gulliver, Victoria Guenther, Ginny Haydon, Patty Haupt, Pat Higgins, Linda Hildebrandt, Jo-an Keep, Bob Kirkpatrick, Judy and Phil Kuebbeler, Demetri and Raynette Lignos, Carol Lisciandro, Jean Luker, Natalie Marsh, Jean Martin and three of her friends, Rachel Martin, Mary Ellen and Marvin Miller, Ron Miller, Wendy Miller, Richard Morris, Reva and Stephen Mitchell, Dorothy and Jim Murphy, Alan and Linda Nelson, Art and Jane Nelson, Thom Olshewsky, Ann and Don Opdycke, Sue Pantling, John Parks, Bill Price, Neal Price, Elaine and Bill Rice, Bill and Emily Rickloff, Larry and Marcia Schaper, Hal Serrie, Sandi Soper and friend, Joanne Simons, Drew Stuart, Jay Swick, Becky Taylor, Cheryl and Logan Track, Allison Tracy, Cord Van Nostrand, Sheldon and Vicki Wacksman, Flo Walker, Mary Webb, Kitty Werner and her son and daughter-in-law; Toni Westerfield, and Barbara Woods. (Hopefully, we have included all the names.)

We look forward to reaching our commitment of 100 First Presbyterian members and friends attending this year's noteworthy **Nehemiah Assembly, March 19, 6:30 p.m.**, at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium.

Last year 1,000 people of faith from 19 congregations came together striving to make a difference in our Sarasota community. Registrations are tallied. First Presbyterian had a good turnout which we hope to increase this year. To make registration easier, please consider registering on-line at suresarasota.org. Registrations are also taken on the night of the event. Reserve a seat on the church bus by calling the church office (941) 955-8119.

By coming together we learn how our elected officials are responding to the community needs SURE has been working on: affordable housing, state-wide civil citation, and restorative strategies (out-of-school suspensions). Remember, if answers are given in the affirmative, we applaud and cheer. If the answers are negative, we stay silent.



• **Birthdays**

1	Vance Bauer	15	Pam Molpus	28	Roy Chapman, Sr
2	Lois Droege		Bradley Schatzman		Jennifer Hall
	Greyson Miller		Rob Prince, III		Pamela Mack
	Matt Millar	16	Jake Martin		Bill Wild
3	Roy Baldwin		Carrie Bryant	29	Mark Smith
4	Trina Lindell	17	Bob Forbes		Kamila Rencher
	Rebecca Blitz		Kathi Noe		Matthew Tarnowsky
	Ken Fischl		Ellen Steinwachs	30	Jane Bartruff
5	Axel Hawkins		Maggie Alsum		German Diaz
	Karen Saba	18	Betty Stewart		Megan Smoot
	Ardis Rea	19	Margaret Towner	31	Tonya Johnson
6	Jorge Ordonez		Christina Bretoi		Jim Fruit
	Patty Largo		Mary Jo Kline		James Harrington
7	Ryan Anderson	20	Robert Tatum		
	George Chorba		Janet Olszewsky		
	Madi Garraus	21	Bob Bittner		
8	Tom Noble	22	Claire Huber		
	David Haenel	23	Bob Messimer		
9	Joey Schwab		Logan Track		
	Don Treffinger		Roberta Hall		
10	Meagan Hallinan	24	Jo Weiss		
	Wayne Seitl		Shirley Pitman		
11	Keleen McDevitt		Darrell Cain		
	Flo Walker		Linda Bruemmer		
	Connie Waymer	25	Daniel Gonzalez		
12	Scott McLeod		Lisa Taylor		
	Megan Schaub		Mark Martin		
	Lynne Catlin		Marilyn Wadsworth		
	Kari Keclik	26	Robby Harrison		
13	Jennifer Armstrong	27	Frances Pitts		
	Ray Harding, Jr.		Troy Papa		
	Fran Line		Katie Furtick		
	Carolyn Simmons		Robert Johns		
14	Steve Brelsford		Nathan Simpson		



**Blessings from
your church family**

• **Anniversaries**

1	Maurice & Jean Luker	29	Robert & Nancy Tatum
7	Jim & Fran Cook	31	Ted & Karen Eastmoore
9	Doug & Gena Smoot		
	Bob & Jane Friday		
10	Dick & Leigh Ann Webb		
17	Jack & Diana O'Neill		
18	Travis & Cheryl Barnes		
21	Phil & Jami Kellogg		
23	Phil & Marcia Kleinschmidt		
	Bobby & Marion Hughes		
25	Glenn & Cindy Millar		

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Cross Connections

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